



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

**Date:** 12/28/2006

**GAIN Report Number:** KS6131

## Korea, Republic of

### Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

### Ingredient Disclosure

## 2006

**Approved by:**

Susan Phillips

U.S. Embassy

**Prepared by:**

Seung Ah Chung

---

**Report Highlights:**

Korea recently revised their requirements for ingredient disclosure for livestock, dairy, and egg products. Ingredient disclosure is required on the import application and the product label. This report provides clear guidance on the ingredient information necessary to export agricultural products to Korea, which is different depending on the type of product being exported.

---

Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Seoul [KS1]  
[KS]

Korea recently revised their requirements for ingredient disclosure for livestock, dairy and egg products. Ingredient disclosure is required on the import application and the product label. This report provides clear guidance on the ingredient information necessary to export agricultural products to Korea, which is different depending on the type of product being exported.

The table below shows the ingredient information needed to complete the import application form. In addition, ingredient information must be displayed on the Korean language product label, either in the form of a sticker or a printed product label.

**Ingredient information required for the import application and product is as follows:**

		<b>Name</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
General food products	Import Application	All ingredients including food additives	Main ingredients and food additives where usage standards are set (A definition of "main ingredient" is the ingredient that is used for the purpose of differentiating and characterizing a food from other food in consideration of the main usage, characteristics, etc. of the food. Main ingredients are usually top one or two ingredients that can characterize a product)
	Product Label (printed label or sticker)	All ingredients including food additives (For certain additives, a simplified name or main purpose can be indicated on the product label instead of an actual additive name)	Only if an ingredient name is used as part of a product name (e.g. a product named "apple sauce" requires to indicate percentage of apple on the product label)
Livestock products including dairy and egg products	Import Application	All ingredients including food additives	Main ingredients and food additives where usage standards are set (A definition of "main ingredient" is a raw material used to differentiate a livestock product from other products, taking into account the main uses and characteristics, etc. of the product. If the standards for raw material contents are established for a processed product in the Livestock Code, the main ingredient shall be as specified in the standards; and if not, the main raw material shall be the one with the largest content (%) among the raw materials of the product in question)

	Product Label (printed label or sticker)	Effective January 1, 2007, all ingredients including food additives (For certain additives, a simplified name or main purpose can be indicated on the product label instead of an actual additive name)	Only if an ingredient name is used as part of a product name (e.g. a product named "pork frank" requires to indicate percentage of pork on the product label)
Organic products	Import Application	All ingredients including food additives	Main ingredients and food additives where usage standards are set
	Product Label (printed label or sticker)	All ingredients including food additives (For certain additives, a simplified name or main purpose can be indicated on the product label instead of an actual additive name)	Percentages of all ingredients (percentages for individual organic ingredients: e.g. a product "95% organic cereal" made of organic barley, organic wheat, organic oat, organic raisin, and organic peanut requires to indicate percentage of organic barley, organic wheat, organic oat, organic raisin, and organic peanut on the product label respectively)

Details about the product label are as follows:

- The names of all ingredients including all food additives must be listed on the Korean language label affixed to the product or printed on the product. Ingredient names should be listed in order of predominance by weight. No percentage breakdown is required unless the product is organic. For organic products, a percentage breakdown is required for products less than 100 percent organic.
- For a composite ingredient<sup>1</sup>, the top five ingredients used in making the composite ingredient must be listed on the Korean language label. For example, instant noodles that are made of noodles, soy sauce and beef powder will need list all the ingredients used in making the instant noodles including the top five ingredients used to make the soy sauce. Exceptions to this requirement are as follows:
- Exceptions under the five percent and two percent rules:
  - o Under the five percent rule, you are only required to list the name of the composite ingredient (e.g. soy sauce) if it comprises less than five percent of the total product. For example, if soy sauce comprises less than five percent of the final instant noodle product, it may be listed as a soy sauce on the label.
  - o Under the two percent rule, if a raw material or ingredient accounts for less than two percent of the final product by weight, a group name may be used instead of an individual name. For example, if five grains (rice, barley, wheat, oats, and corn) are used in making cookies, the names of all five grains must be stated on the label. However, if the total amount of the five grains accounts for less than two percent of the final product by weight a group name

<sup>1</sup> A composite ingredient is an ingredient made of several other ingredients, such as soy sauce that is composed of salt, soybeans, sugar, etc.

(grain) may be stated instead of all five grains. Group names that are commonly used with no objection from Korean authorities include: grains, pulses, potatoes, vegetables, fruits, nuts, seeds, spices, mushrooms, sweetening foods, table luxury plants, wild plants, algae, edible, fish, milk, shellfish, crustaceans, mollusks, echinoderms or chordates, eggs or fish eggs.

- Regarding disclosure content of an ingredient that is used in the product name, the percentage of that ingredient must be listed on the Korean language label. For example, if the product is named, "Joe's Strawberry Jam" the percentage of strawberries used in the product name must be listed on the product label.